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GENERAL

1. Western Commandants reply to USSR on Berlin elections--The Department of State has agreed to the proposed text of a letter, to be sent by the Western Commandants in Berlin to the Soviet Commandant, which takes issue with the seven Soviet conditions for city-wide elections and re-emphasizes the general principles that guide the Western approach to the reunification of Berlin. In the proposed text, the Commandants insist on a freely elected city government for Berlin, with the guarantee of city-wide freedom for all individuals and democratic political groups, before, during, and after the elections. The Commandants point out that, because the occupation forces are intended to guarantee the civil rights of the Berliners, there is no reason to make the holding of elections conditional upon the withdrawal of occupation forces. The Commandants also state that quadripartite work in the Kommandatura should be resumed only when the abolition of the veto permits the expeditious handling of business.

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2. British and French views on German export control--US High Commissioner McCloy in Frankfurt expresses doubt that he could persuade his British and French colleagues to approach the West German Government with a demand for corrective action regarding controls over the export of strategic items to the Soviet bloc. McCloy states that British and French representatives in the High Commission are unable to agree on strict controls for German exports as long as their home governments do not themselves apply stricter controls than they are now doing. The representatives point out that, in the absence of such action on the part of the British and French governments, the Germans would charge discrimination.

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